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## DR. J. J. RIVERS

WITH the death of this aged naturalist in southern California last December, one of the last links joining the present with the beginning of modern science has been broken. Born in England in the early twenties of the last

century, his childhood days were those of Murchison and Lyell, the years of his young manhood those of Darwin, Dana and Hall, while Hugh Miller, Huxley and Tyndall were his contemporaries. His place in middle-class English life and the possession of private means made it unnecessary for him to devote himself to the practise of his profession, and his interest in the awakened spirit of research kept him busy in the fields of discovery during the half century of his life in England. His first contribution to science was a paper read before a society in Birmingham in 1840. The writer has in manuscript one of his lectures read before a similar body in London in 1863, with the names of Stafford, Hardin, Fay, Spence-Bate, Hodges and Scrivener, in the discussion on the evidences of the antiquity of man, in which he places this age conservatively at 100,000 years. This epitome of results attained a half century ago gives sufficient data to indicate his place in the thought of his time.

He was preeminently an entomologist, adding several new species to British Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. In this pursuit he was in personal touch with Darwin. He came to this country in 1868 and after a few years went to the Pacific coast. Here the Le Contes found him, and by their influence he was made curator of the museum in the University of California. While in this service it was said of him that his ability was sufficient for any office in the institution, even for its presidency. Under his guidance was trained a group of young students who have since won an honorable place as men of science.

He resigned when past seventy, and for twenty years was the Hugh Miller of the California coast, gathering insects and fossils all the way from San Diego to Santa Barbara. His collection of insects was purchased about ten years ago for the German Royal Museum in Berlin. His collection of Cenozoic marine fossils of over 200,000 specimens, classified by himself, was purchased for Beloit and Pomona Colleges, and forms an invaluable part of their illustrative material.

He lived his own life, neither seeking nor shunning publicity. To the world he was only

a gray old man; to those whom he knew and cared for, the most delightful companion. He added about a score of species of insects and mollusks to the world of knowledge and something like the same number have received the name *riversii* in his honor. Without relatives, in an alien land, his life went out amid a small circle of very dear friends.

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#### THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, LONDON, 1915

THE second circular for the Fourth International Botanical Congress to be held at London, 1915, has been just received. As the time when motions and resolutions must be ready is short the circular is reprinted below entire, excepting that only the American members of the committees are mentioned.

The Nomenclature Section of the Third International Botanical Congress, held at Brussels in 1910, carried towards completion the work of the Vienna Congress (1905) on the international rules governing questions of nomenclature. The combined result of the decisions reached at Vienna and Brussels has been published in the second edition of the "Rules of Botanical Nomenclature." There remain, however, certain points which have to be settled by the Nomenclature Section of the London Congress in 1915.

The program of work for 1915 was defined by the Congress of 1910 as follows:

1. To fix the starting-point for the nomenclature of
  - (a) Schizomycetes (Bacteria);
  - (b) Schizophyceæ (excepting Nostocaceæ);
  - (c) Flagellatæ;
  - (d) Bacillariaceæ (Diatomaceæ).
2. To compile lists of nomina generica utique conservanda for
  - (a) Schizomycetes;
  - (b) Algæ (incl. Schizophyceæ, Flagellatæ, etc.); new lists for groups not included in the list of 1910 and also a supplementary list;
  - (c) Fungi;
  - (d) Lichens;
  - (e) Bryophyta.
3. Compilation of a double list of nomina gener-